

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an optical encoder, a rotary disk plate has slits formed along a circumferential direction and rotates to intermittently pass light through the slits such that the passed light has a periodical intensity variation. A stationary mask plate has apertures spatially shifted from each other and splits the passed light into two light fluxes having different phases of the periodical intensity variation due to the spatial shift of the apertures. Two light receiving elements receive the two light fluxes respectively, and generate two electric signals having a same cycle corresponding to the periodical intensity variation of the light fluxes and different electric phases. A light guiding member is provided between the stationary mask plate and the light receiving elements to guide the light fluxes while expanding the spacing between the light fluxes such that the light receiving elements are spaced from each other at a distance greater than the spacing of the light fluxes. The light guiding member has an incident face to admit the light flux and an exit face to send the light flux to the light receiving element. The incident face is convexly curved to converge the light flux, thereby efficiently transmitting the light flux to the exit face.